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THE WONDERFUL JAPANESE.

Ex-Minister Bingham Relates Interesting Facts.

John A. Bingham, at the age of 80, is one of Ohio's grand old men. For fifty years he has held an eminent place in the making of history, and forty years ago he began a long term of service in the Congress of the United States. He has outlived the master minds of his generation, but even in his old age he retains much of his fire and eloquence.

After twenty years in Congress, during the most stirring era of this country's history, he retired in 1878. He was then fairly in his prime, rich in resources, overflowing with the inspirations gathered from friendships and struggles of war times, and he was loath to let go his hold on public life.

President Grant appointed him Minister to Japan, and to the surprise of those who knew the old man eloquent and his desire for distinction at home, he accepted. To their great surprise he remained in Japan twelve years.

In a recent interview Mr. Bingham said:

Referring to the present war I can see only one underlying design, and that is the infamous design of European powers to finally seize and parcel out among themselves the whole of China and eventually Japan. I say infamous because I have always objected to Europeans, particularly to English interference, with the governments of both nations, especially with Japan.

There is something else which may be a prime cause of this overwhelming desire of China and Japan to retain the mastery of Korea. The tradition goes that in one secluded and closely guarded province of the peninsula there are extensive gold and silver mines—a veritable Golconda, which supplies Japan with precious metals. I say a tradition because nothing absolutely correct could ever be learned about that wonderful province, so carefully is the approach to it guarded.



EX-MINISTER BINGHAM.

The Japanese are a wonderful people. They are a generous, brave, happy people. As soldiers they are ferocious fighters, especially in hand-to-hand conflict. The history of their wars in the days of bludgeons and swords records awful carnage and terrible contests of man against man. Now when given civilized means of warfare their skill and ingenuity will avail most tremendously against the ancient and obsolete fighting methods of the Chinese.

Minister Bingham delights to talk of Japan, and is eloquent in praise of the Emperor. "He was a young man when he came to the throne," said Mr. Bingham. "And he is now but forty-one. I found him exceedingly modest, almost retiring and very devoted to his people. He is a man of splendid education and, though he speaks our language—or rather understands it—he never chose to converse with me in English. No, he considers it dishonorable and unpatriotic to speak in any language but the language of Japan. But that he does understand English and that he reads it I had ample means of knowing."

"As another illustration of his noble character, let me refer to the splendid system of free schools in Japan. The Mikado issued the edict that all children of the Empire should be taught free, and he saw that the provisions of his edict were carried out, until to-day the school system of Japan is equal to ours. The Japanese are not a rich people. They are really poor, but it is wonderful to see the contributions to the school fund by those who could afford it. The rich proclaimed themselves in accord with the Mikado's edict, and gave generously that the system of schools might be gloriously perfected."

"When my term of office had expired the Emperor was loath to see us depart, and the Empress, good, noble little woman, made a speech in which she thanked us for goodness shown to her people."

"We are sorry you are leaving us," she said. "Only one ocean divides Japan from the United States, and we wish you would come and visit us."

"It was a touching, quaint little speech, which came from the heart and was an index to her beautiful character."

Dentistry in Japan.

The study and practice of dentistry in Japan have little in common with the profession as known in this country. An American who had occasion to employ a Japanese dentist visited one, accompanied by Minister Hubbard, and tells this story of his experience: "One day I was troubled with the toothache and Mr. Hubbard took me to a dentist and explained to the saddle-colored operator that I wanted the grinder extracted. I was placed in a bamboo chair and tilted slightly back. The dentist examined my teeth, talking volubly meanwhile to Uncle Sam's representative. Suddenly his thumb and forefinger closed on the troublesome tooth, and before I had the faintest idea of what was going to happen he lifted it out and held it before me, smiling at the same time that vacant smile peculiar to the children of the Orient. 'You were waiting for the forceps, were you?' said Minister Hubbard, with a

laugh. 'They don't use 'em here. Look at this. Here's a young Japanese taking his first lesson in dentistry.' A twelve-year-old Japanese boy sat on the floor, having before him a board in which were a number of holes into which pegs had been tightly driven. He was attempting to extract the pegs with his thumb and forefinger. Mr. Hubbard explained that, as the strength of this natural pair of forceps developed by practice, the pegs would be driven in tighter. After a couple of years at peg-pulling the young dentist would graduate and be able to lift the most refractory molar in the same manner that he had lifted wooden pegs.

FINGER FOR NOSE.

Remarkable Operation of a Surgeon on a Noseless Man.

The achievements of American surgeons in bold and extraordinary operations have long been the wonder of the world. But now from the other side of the Atlantic comes a story which shows that the old country is waking up a bit in the art of engrafting living human flesh. A young man has put his finger to his nose, and it remains there permanently.

A few months ago a youth whose nasal organ was missing, as the result of an accident, called at Charing Cross Hospital, London, with the request that the surgeons would supply the deficiency, artificially or otherwise. He expressed himself as willing to undergo any sort of treatment by which his disfigured face might be made fairly presentable, and not absolutely repulsive, to his best Sunday school girl. Mr. Bloxam, the senior surgeon, took the interesting case in hand.

First, the amputated finger of another patient was carved and fashioned to the semblance of a nose, and then securely grafted on the face. But it was found that this mutilated digital appendage had not survived its cutting up. It was "dead" and failed to take fresh root.

The noseless man, nothing daunted thereupon, agreed to the surgeon's suggestion that one of his own (the patient's) fingers should be cut off to furnish a nasal organ. But in order that the finger should not be wasted in the event of this operation being unsuccessful, it was only half amputated. The patient's arm being encased in plaster, for four weeks he held his own live finger to his face in the hope of it taking root. This it did. The portion which was still attached to his hand was then cut through, and soon joined the rest in adhering firmly to the face. Although minus a finger, the young man now has a new nose of his own flesh and blood.

The transferred cartilage has been so manipulated by clever Dr. Bloxam that its original identity is entirely lost, and the further process of shaping it is now being proceeded with. It is not known whether the plucky young Briton prefers the "nez retreousse" or the aquiline. He will doubtless be in a position to take his choice.

Vast Armaments of Europe.

Thirteen million bayonets prop up the czar's throne. This is the full strength of the Russian army on a war footing. Germany comes next, but after a long interval, with 3,700,000 soldiers; Italy has 3,155,000, and France 2,850,000, excluding 350,000 auxiliaries. Austria's fine army, which in quality is reckoned scarcely second to Kaiser Wilhelm's, contains a maximum of 1,791,175 men. England at home and in her colonies can mobilize a force of 602,000. The little martial republic of Switzerland can summon 486,000 soldiers to her banners in an emergency, and even poverty-stricken Spain boasts of 400,000. Austria, of all the powers, has the most burdensome military establishment. Her annual expenditure on her army are \$255,000,000, while Russia's, with an army seven times as large, are only \$186,000,000, and Germany's \$112,000,000. In proportion to size England's army is, perhaps, the most costly. Her 602,000 men require \$89,000,000 annually for their support, or only \$28,000,000 less than the amount which provides France with an enormous host of more than four times England's numbers.

Successful Southern Farmers.

As illustrating what energy and thrift can accomplish on a Southern farm, the Southern States Magazine refers to the case of a family of brothers that settled in Acadia Parish, Louisiana, about six years ago, with only a few hundred dollars. They are now worth \$100,000. They had on hand, from this season's harvesting, 10,000 barrels of rice, which they say has cost them less than \$10,000 to produce, counting expenses of every sort. The 10,000 barrels will be sold at a price to net \$3 per barrel and upward. What these brothers have done, other people can do. There are in the South to-day as good agricultural opportunities as were ever taken advantage of.

The Telegraph in China.

"The natives were very bitter against the telegraph at first, as it was reported the foreigners cut out the tongues of children and suspended them on the insulators to transmit the message from pole to pole. Then again the wires disturbed the graves of the 'Fineshins,' the spirit of wind and water. The telegraphic instruments used are mostly of London make. The system of telegraphing in Chinese is very simple. There are about eight thousand characters in the Chinese language. These are all numbered from one up and so printed in book form. It is therefore only necessary to telegraph the numbers. This system is used in the government dispatches."

Pearl color shot and flowered with old rose, or olive with pink, are fashionable mixtures, magenta velvet being often used for trimming.

The King of the Belgians exercises upon a bicycle daily.

Woodpulp paper is made very rapidly in these days.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

MOUNTAIN climbing is a great sport and a dangerous one. According to the Appenzeler Zeitung, the past year alone, seventy-three tourists and guides met with violent death in the Alps, while twenty others received serious injuries, and four more were lost, never to be heard of again.

The United States now have about forty vessels engaged in whaling, the remnant of a fleet which once numbered 500 ships. The demand for whale oil has so greatly decreased that the industry has dwindled away. It is now supported chiefly by the demand for whalebone.

The longest distance a letter can be carried within the limits of the United States is from Key West, Fla., to Ounulaska, 6,271 miles; and all for two cents! People who would save money will at once start for Key West or Ounulaska and so address their correspondence that they shall get their full money's worth.

"The newspapers refer to the fact that the late czar of Russia was an enthusiastic stamp collector," remarked a New Yorker who is interested in the stamp-selling business. "Some years ago I received an order from the czar for a complete assortment of United States stamps. I sent them to him and received a very large sum of money in return."

According to the most recent information the Christian missionaries whose lives are in constant danger, especially since the beginning of the Japanese war, can be classified as follows: Seven hundred and five of them belong to the Roman Catholic Church, forty-one being bishops and 664 priests. The Protestant missionaries from Scotland and England number 850, belonging to the Church Missionary Society, and to the China Inland Mission. The American and Swedish missionaries of the Protestant faith are pretty numerous, but the exact figures are not reported in regard to the strength of their mission.

"LONDON ENGINEERING" says: "The heavy naval fighting in the far East has given not a few opportunities of gathering valuable information about the behavior of guns and armor, which no doubt will be available at a later date. It is stated, on what appears to be reliable authority, that the fate of the Chinese ironclad Ping-Yuen was decided by one round from a Canet 12.60-inch gun, the heaviest weapon in both fleets. The shell, which sunk the Ping-Yuen weighed 150 kilograms, nearly 1,000 pounds, and was one of Holtz make; it crashed through the after-part of the vessel's armored deck, the ship sinking by the stern almost immediately."

The First Parish in Dorchester, Mass., over which the Rev. Eugene R. Shippen was recently installed as pastor, is the oldest church or religious society in Boston. It is Unitarian, although in one usually well-informed religious weekly it is set down as Congregational. It is more than 250 years old and has had only eleven pastors in its history. The invariable custom has been to install a young man, and not to call a minister from another church. Mr. Shippen is the son of Rev. Rush R. Shippen, pastor of the Unitarian Church in Washington. He is a graduate of Harvard, and for the last year has been studying at Oxford. Previous to that, however, he was settled over a Congregational Church in Wichita, Kan. The Rev. R. R. Shippen preached the sermon at the installation of his son.

A JAPANESE contributor to "The Popular Science Monthly" says: "When I was a young boy the custom of eating beef began to spread. As blood was regarded as unclean, and also as Japan had been a strong agricultural country, there was a deep-rooted disinclination to eat beef. In this, of course, one has also to recognize the influence of the hegemonial principle of Buddhism. But to anybody who had ever tasted beef, it was so delicious that he could hardly control his natural appetite by his religious scruple. My father was one of those who knew its taste, and so now and then we used to treat ourselves to beef. But where did we eat it? We did not eat it inside of the house. We cooked it and ate it in the open air, and in cooking and in eating we did not use the ordinary utensils but used the special ones kept for the purpose. Why all these things? Because beef was unclean, and we did not like to spread its uncleanness into our house wherein the 'gods-shelf' is kept, and into our ordinary utensils, which might be used in making offerings to the gods. The day when we ate beef my father did not offer light to the gods nor say evening prayers to them, as he did usually, for he knew he was unclean and could not approach the gods."

NEVER were the physician and the chemist more disunited by the meagerness of their knowledge—great though the results of their labors have been—than now. Taking the apparently simple question of water analysis for example an English chemist observes that "the intellect of the civilized world for fifty years or more has been unable to devise a process (physical, chemical, microscopical or biological) which will enable the operator to say with certainty, 'this water is wholesome.' There are several processes which are capable of detecting a bad water, but in many cases this cannot be done by the senses alone, so recourse must be had to indirect methods, such as ascertaining the mortality and sickness amongst the people who use the water, or examining the source as to the probabilities of pollution." A striking illustration of the uncertain evidence of chemical analysis alone is afforded by the history of the Hamburg cholera epidemic. The neighboring city of Altona was comparatively free from the disease, yet Hamburg's water supply came from the Elbe above the city, and that for Altona from the same river after receiving the sewage of a population of about 800,000. The Altona water was chemically more impure than that of Hamburg, but the former was filtered and the latter was not.

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